

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 712

By Casada

A RESOLUTION to commemorate National Healthy Schools Day 2018.

WHEREAS, Tennessee recognizes the importance of protecting the environment and that schools and school districts will continue and strengthen their efforts to operate in a manner that protects indoor air quality and the environmental aspect of outdoor areas, including playgrounds and sports areas, and promotes environmentally sound behavior; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee school districts will continue focusing on pollution prevention indoors and outdoors, promoting sustainable development and sustainable purchasing, and striving for constructive environmental behavioral change; and

WHEREAS, it has been recognized that children are often put at risk due to poor indoor air quality and exposure to hazardous substances and that even small exposures via dermal absorption, inhalation, or ingestion may result in permanent adverse health outcomes, especially if such exposures occur during critical periods of child development; and

WHEREAS, furthermore, according to a study conducted by researchers from the University of Southern California and published December 2017, there is a link between high levels of air pollution and increased delinquency or bad behavior among young people; and

WHEREAS, it has also been demonstrated that improving indoor air quality in schools positively influences student academic performance and increases average daily attendance; and

WHEREAS, asthma remains a leading cause of student and teacher absenteeism, due in part to indoor and outdoor air pollutants as well as known triggers for this serious chronic respiratory condition; in addition to asthma, other serious environmentally triggered conditions, such as multiple chemical sensitivities, are on the rise; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to bring awareness to environmental conditions at schools that may negatively impact student health, the Healthy Schools Network, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, annually sponsor National Healthy Schools Day, which will be celebrated in the first week of April this year; and

WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association, the American Lung Association, the Council of Educational Facility Planners International, and more than twenty other groups also join in the effort to help raise awareness of the need for healthy indoor and outdoor environments at schools, the need to reduce exposures to indoor and outdoor hazards at schools, and the need to protect student and teacher health; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-121, encourages each school district to implement an indoor air quality inspection and evaluation program for its facilities. Such programs may have online "hands-on" material and action kits designed for use by school staff and can help to educate, identify, remediate, and/or avoid potential hazards and dangers to students and staff; and

WHEREAS, the Tools for Schools program has been recognized for meeting or exceeding Tennessee's goals for reducing school expenditures, reducing environmentally triggered medical emergencies, increasing school attendance, improving test scores, and helping to provide vigilant protection of indoor and outdoor environments where students live, learn, play, and eat; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with the members and organizations of the Healthy Schools Network as they commemorate National Healthy Schools Day in the first week of April 2018, inviting all citizens and school districts to join in this worthy observance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.